

THE COLUMBIAN CALL

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NUMBER 25

Graduate School

Presented to the Call Readers

A JOHNS HOPKINS PROFESSOR
GROWS SKEPTICAL ON A
RAILWAY JOURNEY.

Born in '93, it is a Most Promising
Infant—Some Interesting Matter
About Dean Munroe—Per-
sonnel of the Faculty.



PROF. CHARLES E. MUNROE.

Dean of the Graduate and Scientific Schools,
Department of Chemistry.

On one of the railway trains passing between Washington and Baltimore, a few years ago a professor of Johns Hopkins University was overheard to remark "Who is this man Munroe, anyhow? Can he create everything out of nothing? Can he establish a Graduate School at Columbian upon the basis he proposes? Impossible!" And yet, this is exactly what the first and present Dean of the Graduate School of Columbian University has done—and even more. He has established the Graduate School on a firm, sound, practical, and original basis—so successfully in fact that it has attracted the attention and received the favorable criticism of the best educationalists throughout the United States.

"The School of Graduate Studies," it has been said, "is the pinnacle of the University; it is in this school that the ideal University is realized; it is the point to which all the other departments of the University, academic and professional, tend; and where their work is perfected and made fruitful. It is a school for original research, in which the student is required to

have added a new and valuable contribution to the fund of human knowledge and to be able to speak with authority before he can receive its highest degree."

This promising department of the University was founded in 1893, and opened its doors to students in the fall of that year. It had been a conception of President Welling's from the time of his taking the office of President of the University, but circumstances did not permit its realization until that year. In this school is awarded the degrees of Master of Arts and Sciences, Civil and Electrical Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy, the latter being the highest degree conferred by any University. In order to be admitted to the school, the applicant must previously have secured the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Sciences; while a Master's degree is essential for candidature to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

For the Master's degree one year's study of one subject is required, and the successful candidate must have passed a rigid examination and presented a thesis accompanied by a bibliography; and moreover, the thesis must evidence marked attainment in the chosen subject. To secure the Doctor's degree the candidate must have spent two years in study at the University of one major subject and one year in the study of each of the correlated minor subjects, and must pass, too, a rigid examination on each of these and submit a thesis on his major subject which shall be an original contribution to knowledge; which must be accompanied by an exhaustive bibliography; and which must be successfully defended in public before a board of three experts in the subject selected by the student as a major. It will be observed that the distinctive features of the Graduate School of Columbian University is in requiring a residence throughout the entire time of study; in requiring a bibliography, which implies that the successful candidate is familiar with all that has previously been done by others in the province which he has explored; and third, that he shall have maintained his thesis in public before a board of experts. The second and third

distinctive features are, it is understood, entirely original with our University, and the third differs from a similar practice in the Universities of Germany in that the defense of the thesis is done in public and is a serious, practical, ceremony—the experts are not the candidate's professors, as in Germany, and the student is not informed who will compose the board of experts, nor has he any intimation of the nature of the questions that will be put to him, other than that they will relate to his subject. The examination is in every sense of the word rigid, without at the same time becoming perfunctory and impractical. The thesis of the candidate is submitted to each of the experts who are to examine the student, and is read in advance by them; and at the conclusion of the examination their opinion is rendered in writing. The following cases will give some idea of the boards before which candidate doctors have appeared:

Mr. Harshman's thesis was "Investigation of the Motion of the Pericenter of Deimos," a satellite of Mars discovered by Professor Asaph Hall, of this city, in 1877. The board of experts before whom Mr. Harshman had to defend his thesis consisted of Professor Asaph Hall, the discoverer of this satellite, as above stated; Professor Harkness, professor U. S. Naval Observatory; and Professor Eastman, professor of mathematics and astronomy of the U. S. Navy. A more competent and expert commission for this thesis could not be found in the United States.

Take another case: The thesis of Mr. Hamner last year bore the title of "Researches upon the Government of the Creek Indians." The board of experts consisted of Dr. H. C. Yarrow; Dr. Albert S. Gatschett, who has received honorary degree of Ph. D. from the University of Zurich for his researches upon Indians; and Mr. Robert S. Thompson, who was especially detailed by the United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs as being the most expert man living on the Creek Indians.

And still another case, that of Dr. Knowlton, whose thesis was "The Flora of the Laramie Group and Allied Formations." The board of experts in this case con-

sisted of Professor Lester F. Ward, Dr. Charles A. White, and Professor G. K. Gilbert, the most expert paleobotanists and geologists in this country.

The record of candidates admitted for the three years of its existence is as follows: 1893-1894, 24; 1894-1895, 38; 1895-1896, 43; showing an increase each year, with a total number of graduates of thirty-three. It is unnecessary to state that all students have not passed who have come before the expert commissioners appointed to examine them; and it may be further stated that the University intends to maintain a standard for the Graduate School of the highest order.

I know of no department of the University that ought to inspire greater enthusiasm and respect on the part of the students of Columbian than that of this lusty "infant" that has already attracted the attention of the leading educationalists of the United States. Its professors are men of national reputation, and it is not saying too much to add that the faculty and curriculum of the Graduate School of Columbian University compares favorably with that of any other in the United States.

It can be safely said, without fear of contradiction, that the School of Graduate Studies owes its existence solely to the energy, perseverance, and organizing ability of its first Dean, Dr. Charles E. Munroe, Dean of the Scientific and Graduate Schools and Professor of Chemistry in Columbian University.

Prof. Chas. Edward Munroe was born in Cambridge, Mass., May 24, 1849. He comes from that fine old colonial stock who were composed of "the stuff that men are made of." His ancestor, William Munroe, settled in Lexington, then Cambridge, Mass., in 1652, and no less than twenty of his ancestral connections were engaged in the battle of Lexington in front of the house of one of his ancestors, April 19, 1775.

The higher the order of personal characteristics in the human race, the more certain they are of prolonged persistence in subsequent generations. The chief characteristics of those who wrested our liberty from the British tyrants

Continued from page 199.

PROF. THEODORE N. GILL.
Natural History.

The subject of this sketch, Theodore Nicholas Gill, was born in New York city, March 21, 1837. His early education, received in private schools and from private tutors, was of a classical rather than of a scientific nature.

His inclination toward natural history soon began to assert itself, however, and at the age of 18 we find him attracting the attention of Prof. Baird, at that time assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, with a paper on "The Food Fishes of the New York Markets." In 1858 he traveled and made extensive collections, especially in the Barbadoes and Trinidad, and also in the West Indies. In 1860 he made a scientific trip to Newfoundland.

In the fall of 1860 he removed to Washington, and on the death of



PROF. THEODORE N. GILL.

Mr. Wm. Henry, son of Professor Henry, he was appointed librarian of the Smithsonian Institution.

He first became connected with Columbian University in 1861, as associate professor of zoology. He delivered only one lecture in the old hospital building in Judiciary Square before that building was taken possession of by the Government at the outbreak of the war, thus temporarily dissolving his connection with the school.

After the war he delivered various courses of lectures on zoology, including physiology and comparative anatomy, in the old law building on Sixth street and in the medical college building on H street.

From 1867 to 1875 he was connected with the library of Congress, first as assistant in connection with the Smithsonian deposits of books and later as senior assistant librarian.

His activity as a zoologist has been unceasing. The five hundred or more papers which have come from his pen, while pertaining mostly to the fish fauna, have added materially to the knowledge of nearly every branch of the animal kingdom. Among the most important of his contributions might be mentioned "The Arrangement of the Families of Mollusks" (1871), "The Arrangement of the Families of Mammals" (1873), "The Arrangement of the Families of Fishes" (1873). The zoological portion of the American Encyclopaedia, the greater part of the volume on fishes and a portion of the volume on mammals of the Standard and Natural History, and the zoological text of the Century and Standard dictionaries. Reports on zoology for the Smithsonian Institution from 1879 to 1887 were prepared by him.

In the scientific societies of our city he is an active worker, being the first president of the Biological, and a member of the Entomological, Anthropological, and Philosophical. Altogether he is a member of over fifty learned societies. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1873, and of the American Philosophical Society in 1887. The first societies with which he was connected was the Lyceum of Natural History of New York and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and in their proceedings his first papers were published.

From time to time during the course of his connection with our school his merits have received public recognition and the following degrees have been conferred upon him: A. M. 1865, M. D. 1866, Ph. D. 1870, LL. D. 1894.

As he comes in contact with the student Dr. Gill's personality offers a most pleasing contradiction to the supposition that a learned scientist must be narrow in his ideas or crabbed in his manner. Always ready to turn from his own work to help the beginner, and able to do this from his vast fund of general information, his presence is always welcomed by those who have the honor of his acquaintance.

A biographical sketch of other professors of the Graduate School, Professors Montague, Lodge (the Secretary of the Graduate School), Huntington, Gore, Farquhar, will appear in connection with the historical sketch of the College in the next issue.

Speedy Schade

GOES TO THE LAND OF COTTON.

He will enter the Southern Lists for Championship Honors—A Good Tennis Tournament Arranged.

Columbian University may well feel confident of being properly represented in the amateur cycle championship of the Southern States on the 15th and 20th instants. Why, for the simple reason that our crack rider, Fred Schade, class '97, who again defeated Georgetown so handily last Saturday, will be our representative. Schade left last Tuesday (May 12th), for Greenwood, S. C., where he will contest the following events: One-fourth mile, one-half mile, 3 mile, 1 mile, and 5 mile handicap. From there he goes to Charlotte, where he will endeavor to make a good showing in the Southern championship. He will also ride in the following races: One mile handicap, 2 mile handicap, and one-fourth mile open. The Charlotte Observer says of him: "Schade has one good trait, he never knows when he is beaten, is courageous, game and determined."

The tennis players of the College have made arrangements to hold a championship tournament in singles and doubles on or about June first.

There will be appropriate prizes in both singles and doubles. Entrance fee will be fifty cents in singles and one dollar in doubles. Entries will be received up to May 28, by Mitchel, Robinson, Biscoe, Hills, Altschee, Patten and Rayhold.

The tournament will probably be played on the courts at Columbia field.

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cellence in all the several branches of the Dental School, including work done in the Dental Infirmary. Dr. James Levy Whiteside, of the District of Columbia, was a close second, and he was followed by Dr. Wilmer Scott Hall, of Alabama, the last named gentlemen receiving honorable mention for their excellence in studies and work.

Next followed a concert selection from the band, after which the benediction was delivered and every one went home happy and apparently contented. The graduates received a number of floral remembrances from their relatives and admiring friends. These beautiful bouquets ranged along the edge of the rostrum heightened the artistic effect of the stage decorations.

Following is a list of the graduates, officers of the class organization, executive committee, and reception committee:

Graduates: Richard V. Barry, D. C., Edward F. Concklin, R. I., Wilmer S. Hall, Ala., Llewellyn Jordan, M. D., Miss., Samuel C. Luckett, Texas, Harry B. Moore, D. C., Robert E. L. Wiltberger, D. C., L. Joe Broughton, N. C., Joseph L. Egan, Conn., Harry A. Jelly, Md., Hubert L. King, D. C., John A. Moore, Ind., J. Reverdy Stewart, Va., James L. Whiteside, Md.

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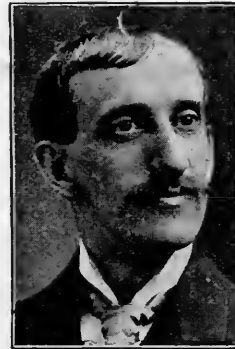
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SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1896.

CIVIL SERVICE AND THE COLLEGE GRADUATE.

On May 6th the President issued an order for the extension of the civil service of the Government. It took "out of the wet" some thirty thousand employees, and the country at large congratulates the Chief Executive on thus giving further evidence of his good will and belief in the system.

This is of special interest to young college men. As it stands now the system includes all the scientific departments of the Government. Men who hold the necessary technical knowledge to pass a high grade examination in some scientific line can enter upon their duties with no fear of the spoilsman. It is as it should be, the Government scientist is beyond the influence of the politician. The scheme is proving itself as its father, Senator George Pendleton, of Ohio, said it would. Young men fresh from college halls who have passed the necessary examinations in laboratories and on text books will here find a field that will give them employment at a fairly remunerative return.

We say fairly remunerative, for it is an admitted fact that the poorest paid men in the Government service, considering their knowledge and special fitness for the

work, are the scientists. It is the height of absurdity to pay a degree man from some standard university eight hundred and forty dollars per annum for work that he has spent the greater portion of his young manhood preparing for and on the other hand give an indifferent book-keeper of some simple accounts sixteen hundred dollars for three hundred and thirty days of seven hours each.

The justice that we prate of seems to have slipped a cog when Uncle Sam sat down to figure compensation for his servants.

But these inequalities are always found in the workings of any new system. Gradually the weak places will be strengthened and the dream of Ohio's "Gentleman George" will be realized.

At the present time the greatest danger that threatens the scheme's future is a civil pension list. It needs no argument to prove that the temper of our people is against the idea of pensions on civil lines. To those who bear the burden of battle, who stood in the roar and demon fighting at Gettysburg and Shiloh, we gladly give a small amount in their days of poverty and old age. But the man who grows old in Government harness at a fair salary meets a deaf ear when he turns to Congress for much needed support in his old age.

To prevent this demand, both for the good of the country and the good of the applicant who is bound to be refused his request, the civil service act should be improved with a tenure of office amendment.

Such a move would be practical, American, and just. It would serve several ends. It would make a civil pension list impossible. It would act as a great incentive in making a Government employee save his money—this certain end of his time of service. With twenty thousand Government places gradually changing all the time, there would be a good field for young men, just entering the fight for life, to secure fair wages and agreeable employment until they had acquired the necessary knowledge, judgment and money to enter trade or a profession.

Sooner or later this will be brought about, and the element who will be largely responsible in effecting the change will be the college bred men in Congress and in the affairs of the republic, who ever since the days of the Pitts have been potent factors in shaping the destinies of politics.

His First Case.

The trim young barrister rose in his place;

Every eye in the court-room fixed on his face.

'Twas his maiden effort, and he was proud;

He paused for a moment to scan the crowd.

Quickly one face in the throng he espied—
The girl who shortly would be his bride.

He must not fail while she looked on.
"Begone!" quoth he to his fears, "Be-gone!"

He'd lost his notes, so from memory merely

He stated his case—and stated it clearly.

And ere his address was e'en half done,
Judge, jury and all knew his case was won.

And as he closed, with triumphant air,
His eyes met those of the girl so fair.

"I owe it to her," to himself quoth he;
'Twas his maiden effort—dost you see?

MABEL B.

University News.

College.

During the writer's three year's experience in the University no final examination has taken place in which the students have not suffered from overcrowding and overheating. Both these disadvantages to good work are due to the fact that the mechanical drawing room has been utilized for college exams. Poor, over-worked drawing room! Used for the daily teas of the fair sex, the chess playing of the stronger sex, and, in the afternoon and evening, for classes, how strongly you make us realize the inadequate accommodations of our Alma Mater! But there is a way in which these exam annoyances could be easily obviated.

The chapel is used for law school exams. Why may we not use it also? There is an abundance of space, a lower temperature, better accommodations, and better ventilation. This innovation would be decidedly acceptable to all parties.

The march which our musical genius, Thatcher Clark, has composed and dedicated to Columbian, is creating a furore around college. It is bright, sparkling, melodious, catchy, and should certainly be played at commencement.

Dr. Dobbins, the eloquent secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, addressed the students in chapel last Monday. Dr. Dobbins' wide experience renders him well qualified to address any audience upon his favorite theme, missions.

In the contest for the Latin medal, Miss Johnson and Miss Chapin have tied, with another member of the class an infinitesimal fraction behind. An interesting problem, Prof. Montague?

The college editor requests all those Jeremiahs who think a sprain is worse than a break to go and hang themselves. It doesn't make him any happier to receive such information.

It is pleasant to note that the young lady who stands easily at the head in everything she undertakes in the way of work, combines with her other admirable qualities considerable poetic talent.

The following ode, addressed to the "Notes in Hurst and Whiting's Seneca," will strike a responsive chord in the breasts of Juniors and Seniors, while it serves as good a purpose in showing the trembling Freshmen and Sophomores what they have to expect in future years.

One of the Collection of Truth.

O ye, in irony entitled "aids!"

Ye base deceivers of the hopes of maids!

What words can tell what hatred ye inspire,

As of your empty show we daily tire?

Tire! Mild indeed that word to suit our state!

Disgust, profound contempt, immortal hate.

Rage, fury, ire, unhallowed thoughts arise

As on these "copious" notes we bend our eyes

In vain attempt to gain from them some light

Upon the passage we can't read at sight!

(For then you speak with charming readiness

When any idiot the sense could guess),

But when in blank despair we turn to you

For some construction no one can see through,

Ye veil your ignorance in silence shrewd,

And leave us to conjecture what we would;

O when will down that happy, happy day,

When commentators write for help, not pay?

—MARY F. KELLY.

Other departments of the University may well envy us our Dean, who is without doubt the most popular man in the University. He is one with the students and one of the students.

Academy.

The Senior Class "exams" will be given the last week in May. This is to insure a free week to spend on their graduation essays,

concerning which Prof. Wilbur is quite anxious.

Among our scholars is George Wedderburn, a young fellow of quiet and slightly nervous manners. He has particularly studied electricity, with the result that he has invented an electro-magnetic device for playing any piece upon the piano. His idea has been well approved of by a Maryland piano manufacturer, who has offered himself to put up the money necessary to begin with. The case is now pending in the Patent Office. Owing to this, under the counsel of Major Duffy, his patent attorney, he has hitherto kept secret the main principles of his invention. They will undoubtedly be disclosed soon. Wedderburn plays chess to an extent; he graduated from the Bliss School of electricity in 1883.

M. E. Dow, who has lately been ill with pleurisy, was welcomed back by his friends last week.

Prof. Pyne, who modestly says that he never plays chess at all, was observed recently to descend upon a third class boy and administer to him on the board the most tremendous licking he could ever have received in any time, manner or place.

The "Columbian Preps"—of course we know which—recently at base ball defeated the fellows from Emerson Institute. Will some one please undertake to write the epitaph?

DENTAL COMMENCEMENT.

The commencement exercises of the Dental Department of the Columbian University occurred on the 5th instant at Metzerott's Hall. The doors were opened promptly at 7.30 P. M., and a large and enthusiastic crowd was ushered into the spacious seats, many of which had been reserved by the graduates for their special friends. Owing to the inclemency of the weather the crowd was not quite sufficient to fill all the seats of the orchestra and balcony circles.

The exercises of the evening were opened by the Marine Band with two beautiful selections, and to the inspiring strains of the "American Eagle" march, composed by Professor Fanciulli, the faculty and prospective graduates marched upon the stage. Prayer was offered by the Rev. D. W. Skellenger. The invocation was followed by another selection from the band, after which the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery was conferred upon the fourteen graduates.

President Whitman in a few well-chosen remarks congratulated the graduates upon their success in achieving their degrees and urged them to help the University to maintain its high ideal while striving to reflect credit upon themselves and upon their Alma Mater. The address to the graduates was delivered by Professor L. C. F. Hugo, D. D. S. The professor in a pleasing manner urged the young graduates not to be over confident, but in every way to strive to elevate and dignify their chosen profession. To work in harmony with their medical brethren from whom they had learned so much and received such untold assistance. The professor's discourse was enlivened by a number of witticisms borrowed from the laity, in the nature of skillful thrusts aimed at the dental engine and other "supposed instruments of torture," the indispensable adjuncts of dental practice.

The valedictory was delivered by Joseph Lawrence Egan, D. D. S.

He thanked the audience for the interest manifested by their presence, and entreated them not to be unreasonable in their expectations or too incredulous of the ability of the young graduate. To the members of the faculty he expressed the appreciation of his classmates for the valuable instruction received, and pledged their professional honor to strive to reflect in their daily efforts their admirable teachings. A touching reference was made to the enforced absence of Dr. D. W. Prentiss, who was unable to be present on account of illness from which, happily, he is rapidly recovering. Dr. Egan, in his farewell to his classmates, spoke of the close associations which had sprung up amongst them during a studentship of three years, of the difficulties which they had in common combatted and overcome, and in a grand peroration begged them to remember that the lower rungs of the ladder are full to overflowing, but that there is always plenty of room at the top. He urged them to spike all switches, which, if left open, might injure, if not wreck their chances for professional success. His effort was highly creditable alike to himself and his class.

Dr. Henry C. Thompson awarded the general faculty prize of \$25.00 to Dr. Edward Franklin Concklin, of Rhode Island, for ex-

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in 1776—honesty, courage, determination—may be generically described as nobleness. This characteristic, inherited from revolutionary officers, has been known to persist through more than three generations.

Professor Munroe graduated from the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard, in 1871, taking the degree of S. B. *summa cum laude*. He was immediately appointed assistant in chemistry in Harvard College to conduct the instruction in Quantitative Analysis in the Senior Class, and in addition he initiated and taught for three years the Summer School of Chemistry, it being the pioneer school of its kind. In 1874, much to the regret of Harvard University, as is shown by the letters of such eminent chemists as Professors Josiah P. Cooke and Wolcott Gibbs addressed to the Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy, he accepted the professorship of chemistry at the Naval Academy, where he remained until 1886. During his tour of duty here, in addition to his functions in the classroom in the departments of chemistry and physics, Professor Munroe created a mineral and metallurgical cabinet for the Naval Academy, numbering several thousand well-arranged and identified specimens, valued at some thousand dollars, and published through the Government Printing Office three catalogues of this cabinet; secured a new laboratory and increased the facilities for instruction; gave, by request, gratuitous courses of laboratory instruction in chemistry, extending over several years, to officers of the Navy on duty at Annapolis; conducted elaborate experimental researches on the adulterations of oils for naval use and discovered two original methods of their analysis, and many other important and difficult researches of a similar nature for the Navy. Also while here he served as Special Agent on Building Stones for the census of 1880; and served as Assay Commissioner to visit the mint, to which office he was thrice appointed—by Presidents Arthur, Harrison, and Cleveland.

Professor Munroe was transferred to the Naval Torpedo Station and War College at Newport, R. I., in 1886, to instruct officers of the Navy and Army in the properties and uses of explosives, to conduct researches upon explosive substances, and to exercise official supervision over such explosives as were manufactured or pur-

chased by the Navy. It was while stationed at this place that Professor Munroe conducted the work which has secured for him a reputation that extends to every country in Europe. In this country he is the leading authority on the subject of high explosives; and is the inventor of the most successful smokeless powder that has ever been used by our Navy—the so-called "Navy smokeless powder." The invention of this powder by Professor Munroe was looked upon as being such an important contribution to science generally, and particularly the science of war, that President Harrison especially praised it in one of his annual messages to Congress. As illustrative of the immense amount of work in this branch of his department alone, it may be stated that while at the Naval Torpedo Station he made upward of 12,000 experiments with high explosives.

He resigned his position under the Government in 1892 to accept the chair of Chemistry in Columbian University and the office of Dean of the Corcoran Scientific School. Under his efficient and energetic direction the Scientific School has made the most rapid and substantial progress, in every direction, since its foundation.

He has published over one hundred papers and several books. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American, London, and Berlin Chemical Societies, and many other organizations, in which he has held high offices.

Among the former pupils of Prof. Munroe are the following: Dr. F. A. Gooch, professor of chemistry, Yale University; Dr. C. F. Mabery, professor of chemistry, Case School of Applied Sciences, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. M. E. Wadsworth, director Michigan Mining School; Dr. R. B. Warder, professor of chemistry, Howard University; Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief chemist, Department of Agriculture; Dr. C. A. O. Rosell, examiner, Patent Office; Dr. Louis Duncan, professor of physics, Johns Hopkins University; Prof. Ira Hollis, professor of engineering, Harvard University; Prof. H. W. Spangles, professor of engineering, University of Pennsylvania; Prof. L. M. Cooley, professor of engineering, University of Michigan.

It is unnecessary to describe Professor Munroe personally. His genial, cordial, and kindly manners have made him the most popular

professor in the University. Every student in the Scientific School has had occasion to test his willingness to give kind and unselfish advice; and there are few students indeed whose respect at first meeting him does not soon grow into an affection that lasts a lifetime.

DR. J. M'BRIDE STERRETT. *Philosophy.*

Dr. J. McBride Sterrett was born near Bellefonte, Pa., Jan. 13, 1847. He graduated with the degree of A. B. at the University of Rochester, 1867; D. D., University of Rochester, 1886; A. M., Harvard University, 1870; and studied also for some time in the Universities of Leipsic and Halle; B. D. Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge, Mass., 1872. During the period 1872 to 1883 Dr. Sterrett was the rector of several Episcopal parishes.



DR. J. M'BRIDE STERRETT.

From 1882 to 1892 Professor Sterrett was Professor of Ethics and Apologetics in the Seabury Divinity School, Fairbault, Minn.; and Professor of Philosophy in Columbian University from 1892.

Professor Sterrett is the author of three volumes on philosophy, which have received the most favorable criticism in reviews in this country and in England: "Studies in Hegel's Philosophy of Religion;" "Reason and Authority in Religion;" and "Ethics of Hegel;" besides numerous contributions in all the leading philosophical reviews in this country and England.

Professor Sterrett is the secretary of the Washington Harvard Club, President of the Washington Cricket Club, President of the Society for Philosophical Inquiry, as well as being assistant minister of the Church of the Epiphany.

In the class room Professor Sterrett is very popular. Entering one

of his classes is equivalent to saying that a student comes under the guidance of one of the most intellectual and yet at the same time kindest professors. The respect of his students for him amounts to affection, and consequently he is one of the most successful professors in Columbian University.

He is an enthusiastic member of the Theta Delta Chi and Phi Beta Kappa fraternities.

Doctor Sterrett is regarded as the leading Hegelian philosopher in this country.

PROF. HERMANN SCHOENFELD. *German and Continental History.*

Professor Hermann Schoenfeld, in charge of the departments of Continental History and German in the Graduate School, as well as professor of German in the Corcoran Scientific School and the College, was born in Oppeln, Prussian Silesia, January 21, 1861. He attended the public schools of Oppeln up to his 12th year and then passed through the Royal Prussian Classical Gymnasium of Oppeln and Strahlen (Silesia), obtaining the highest honors, the certificate of maturity for University studies, 1882.

He first studied law at the Ecole de Droit of Paris, passing his first examination in that profession; but realizing that the universal laws of this profession lay in the philosophical faculty, he matriculated in the latter at the University of Berlin in October, 1883, where he studied philosophy, history, and classics with the famous teachers there, and also the Romance languages with Taber until 1885, when he entered upon military service at Breslau in the Body Regiment of the Emperor Frederick III., serving until 1886. During this same period he spent two semesters in study at the University of Breslau and next (1886-1887) at Leipsic, where he concluded his academic studies with the thesis for his doctorate: "De Cornelii Taciti fontibus in Historiarum libris, qui supersunt, adhibitis."

While preparing for his academic career and at the same time working for the historical and literary magazines of Germany, he received a call as Instructor in Modern Languages to Providence, R. I., which he accepted in 1888. The year following he was called as Instructor in Modern Languages to the Swain Free School, New

Bedford, Mass., and in 1891, to Johns Hopkins University as Instructor in German, which position he held for two years, conducting at the same time the German department of the Corcoran Scientific School.

In 1893 he was appointed U. S. consul at Riga (Russia), and delegate of the U. S. Bureau of Education to carry on special investigation, the result of which was published in numerous essays in the "Münchener Allgemeine Zeitung," the New York Engineering ("The Great Siberian Railway," June, 1894); Johnson's Universal Cyclopaedia, etc., etc. The principal work resulting from this investigation for the Government, "Higher Education in Poland," is now in press through the U. S. Bureau of Education.

Professor Schoenfeld returned from Riga in 1894, and resumed the professorship of German in the Corcoran Scientific School and that of German and Continental History in the Graduate School, to which was added in 1895 the chair of German in the College.

Dr. Schoenfeld is a very prolific writer, his writings being published for the most part in Germany, although he has contributed and is now adding books and numerous pamphlets to the literature of this country, where his writings receive the highest commendation. Among some of his most important productions may be mentioned: "Rabelais and Erasmus," a contribution to the history of the Renaissance, publications of the Modern Language Association of America, Johns Hopkins University; "Brant and Erasmus," Modern Language Notes, Feb., March, July, 1894, A. M. Elliott, editor, Johns Hopkins University; "The Relation of Germany, especially Prussia, to the Colonies before and during the Revolution," New York and Berlin; "History of the Germans in America," 1891, 1893, lectures before the Historical Association of New York and the German Historical Association of Maryland—published in the proceedings of the associations and widely discussed in the German and German-American press; "The Partition of Poland," 1893, translated into Polish "Polonia," "Glos," "Czas," in America and Austria under the title "Rozibor Polski;" "The German Empire Under Maximilian I. and Charles V." in press, Henry Holt & Co.; "German Historical Prose," just published, Henry Holt & Co.; Brockhaus Conversation

Lexicon, Leipsic, author and revisor for the United States; "Heinrich von Sybel," Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia, 1896; and over 89 articles in Johnson's Universal Cyclopaedia; Servian (including Croat and Dalmatian) Literature, Slovene Literature,—Slovan Literature,—Vandals, Vendome, Veince, Vercelli, Verona, Vigevano, and Eastern and European history and geography, etc., etc., etc.

It has been the good fortune of Doctor Schoenfeld to study under the most eminent and famous philosophers and historians of Germany—such world-wide celebrities as Edward Zeller, the philosopher; the great historians Droysen, Mommsen, Sybel, Treitschke, Waitz, Watterbach, Rossbach, Hertz, Studemund, Curtius, Vahler, Kirschhoff, Nehring, Hintz, Ribbeck; and the Germanists W. Scherer and Erich Schmidt. He has, therefore, studied under the best thought and talent of Germany—rare privilege indeed, which he has not neglected to take advantage of, as has been evidenced by his numerous writings attracting considerable attention in this and his own country. Professor Schoenfeld is the most eminent authority in the United States on Polish History, and his work "The History of Poland" at the time of her independence is absolutely sine ira et studio, only tinged with the sympathy born of love for justice.

Professor Schoenfeld graduated with the highest honors from the Universities of Berlin, Breslau, and Leipsic, as has been previously stated, under the most eminent philosophers and historians of Germany, and came to this country, as he stated in a letter to the writer of this article, "in answer to a call to America, the republicanism and liberty of which had haunted me from my early youth."

Professor Schoenfeld is now undertaking a prodigious work—his life work—a Kulturgeschichte of Germany—and the traces of foreign, especially Slavonic elements, in German life in the course of a history of 1,500 years.

PROF. OTIS T. MASON.
Ethnology.

Professor Otis Tufton Mason was born in Eastport, Maine, April 10, 1838. While he was yet an infant his parents removed to Hadonfield, New Jersey, and in 1849 bought from the heirs of Washington that part of the Mount Vernon estate called Woodlawn. Here,

under the tuition of his parents and other members of his family, with very little advantage from outside, amidst the bustle of a large farm, the youth prepared himself for Columbian College, which he entered October 1, 1856.

He heard of this institution through James Landon Holmes, a student who, spending his vacation as a colporter, happened to stray to Woodlawn. Holmes would take no denial and the result was as stated.

While young Mason was getting together his preparation for college an old gentleman prospecting for timber left accidentally in the spare bedroom at Woodlawn a copy of Guyot's "Earth and Man." This was seed in good ground, and found such congenial environments that



PROF. OTIS T. MASON.

it took root and overshadowed the entire life of the student. Owing to a severe and almost fatal illness in 1858, Mr. Mason was absent a year from college and did not graduate until 1861. The principal of the Preparatory School in the spring of that year lost his health, and at President Jamson's request Mr. Mason held the school together until commencement, developing so much love for the boys and interest in the college that he was requested to return and assume full charge.

During the civil war and for a period of twenty-two years Professor Mason conducted the school on the hill, how satisfactorily his old scholars will testify. All this time the Guyot tree kept on growing.

It was the greatest good fortune to a large number of young men about Washington thirty years ago that Professor Henry and Professor Baird allowed them to make themselves at home in the Smithsonian. It would be possible to give the names of a score or more

who have since become eminent in American science, all of whom were allowed to be the associates and helpers of these two great men. While still principal of the Preparatory School Professor Mason for fifteen years was in one connection or another officially engaged in Smithsonian work. He organized the present archaeological department on the culture history basis, translated and edited Klenmis analysis of his own collections, and in 1872 prepared for Professor Baird the plan of arrangement for the ethnographic exhibit in the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

In 1884 Professor Mason was called to the National Museum to organize the new department of ethnology, which he has since developed. The titles to his published works are too numerous to be here given. His annual summaries of progress in anthropology conducted for fifteen years are best known. Among popular works his "Woman's Share in Primitive Culture" and his "Origins of Inventions" are the latest. Professor Mason has never lost his interest in pedagogic work, and during the strain of professional studies finds time to teach and lecture and write for journals for the purpose of exciting public interest in anthropological pursuits. He has been frequently honored both at home and abroad for his permanent contributions to knowledge. He is a systematist rather than a speculator, and his control of so vast a body of material affords him ample opportunity for the exercise of his talent in this direction.

Continued on page 202.

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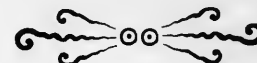
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